

## GENERAL NEWS

### Success of Prohibition in Mississippi.

The State Prohibition Executive Committee of Mississippi has addressed a statement to the voters to the effect that the success of prohibition is now assured. Letters were addressed to the three candidates for Governor at the primary to be held in August, asking their views on prohibition. Only one of them answered, Senator Neal, and his answer was favorable to prohibition. But letters addressed to two hundred candidates for the Legislature resulted in all but twelve of them agreeing to submit a prohibition amendment to the constitution. The Executive Committee declares that if the fight is kept up they will carry Mississippi for prohibition.—New Orleans Dispatch.

### The United People's Party Prepares to Enter Next Year's Fight.

Denver, Colo., July 30.—The National Executive Committee of the United People's Party met yesterday and endorsed all the proceedings of the conference of the reform parties, which has been in session in this city for the past two days. The proclamation issued yesterday was also endorsed.

A resolution was adopted calling a meeting of the National Executive Committee of the United People's Party to be held at St. Louis, February 22, 1904. It was also resolved that it was the sense of the committee that the nominating convention should be held early in 1904 before the conventions of either the Republicans or the Democrats. A committee on organization was appointed, of which J. A. Edgerton is chairman, to organize the reform parties in every State in the Union.

### Cotton and Tobacco Crop Conditions.

Washington, July 28.—The Weather Bureau's weekly summary of crop conditions affecting cotton and tobacco is as follows: "While there has been an improvement in cotton its advancement is apparently less decided than in the previous week, especially in the central portion of the western districts where rain is generally needed. Good growth is reported from nearly all districts, but the plant continues small and is from two to four weeks late. Boll weevils in Texas are doing little damage. Much of the crop has received final cultivation. Tobacco is needing rain in portions of Virginia, North Carolina and Kentucky but is mostly doing well elsewhere."

### Cotton Goes Skyward.

New York, July 30.—July cotton advanced here to-day 60 points to 13.60 cents and in New Orleans 140 points to 14.50 cents, while Wm. P. Brown is said to have bid 15 cents for any part of 10,000 bales of July without getting any offers. Bears were nervous, owing to unexpectedly strong cables from Liverpool, where there was a rise of 20 to 24 American points on the near months and

a growing conviction that the fall and winter months have been heavily oversold.

We have compared the prices recorded last week for eighteen of the most important of the industrial stocks with those at which they were first put upon the market—as given in Professor's Meade's volume on "Trust Finance." The average price at which the stocks of these eighteen trusts were first sold was \$60 a share. Last week the average price of these same stocks was \$47 a share, showing a loss of just one-quarter in average value. At the price at which the first investor's or speculators bought them, the stocks of these eighteen trusts were worth eleven hundred million dollars. At the price of which these stocks were sold last week they were worth a little less than eight hundred millions—a net loss of over three hundred millions. When the fall in these stocks first began Mr. Morgan attributed it to the mass of "undigested securities." A fortnight ago Mr. James J. Hill substituted the phrase "indigestible securities." This week some investors are disposed to classify them as "indigestible insecurities."—New York Outlook.

### Brief Notes of Last Week's Happenings.

President F. J. Kimball, of the Norfolk and Western Railroad, is dead.

The two factions of the Populist party were reunited in a conference at Denver.

Five Missouri legislators convicted of bribery and perjury were sentenced in St. Louis.

One negro was lynched, one white man killed and eleven persons wounded in the Danville, Ill., race war.

The Commercial Telegraphers' Union of America, in session in New York, decided to bar negroes from membership.

A terrific explosion of gunpowder at a Lowell, Mass., factory killed probably twenty persons and wounded a number of others.

The price of cotton continues firm and high, and futures in New Orleans range around 10 cents a pound for as late as January delivery.

The Nag's Head Hotel, on the coast of North Carolina, was burned last week and Mrs. John Z. Lowe, wife of the proprietor, died of heart disease.

John G. Long, Consul of the United States at Cairo, Egypt, and a native of North Carolina, died of a fall at Dunbar, Scotland, where he was visiting friends.

The Postoffice Department decided to drop from the Federal pay-roll on April 1, next, the name of Minnie V. Cox, postmaster at Indianola, Miss.

The Secretary of the Treasury has been asked by the Agricultural Department to hold up cargoes of imported food products until they can be examined by an expert under the provisions of the Pure Food law.

### Political Importance of the Papacy.

The international importance of the Papacy is due in large part to the further fact that the Roman Catholic Church is established by law in a number of European countries. France, Belgium, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Austria, and several States of the German empire, are Catholics in law as well as in fact. The prelates of the church have legal recognition and certain legal rights in all these countries. The clergy are paid from the public funds. While it is true that now other forms of worship are permitted, the Catholic Church is the State church. The political consequences of this union of any State with an international church are far-reaching. In our own republic church and State are kept carefully separate. But in France it was long before the church definitely recognized the third republic, and the acute crisis at present with relation to the teaching orders could hardly exist if the French church were national. In Austria the princes of the church, are ex-officio members of the upper house of parliament, and the Pan-German movement which has already made signal progress has assumed the form of secession from the Catholic Church on a considerable scale in order to pave the way more readily to union with Protestant Prussia. Germany has found the Catholic party a serious force in imperial politics, and may or may not be willing to add more millions of Catholics to the empire in case of the break up of the Hapsburg dominions. Italy has a peculiar relation to the Pope, and a reversal of the policy of Pius IX. and Leo XIII. by the new Pope would transform Italian politics. It is plain, then, that the election of a successor to Leo XIII. is by no means a matter of merely ecclesiastical interest. The political situation of Europe may easily be affected by the choice made.—Chicago Christendom.

### Electing the New Pope.

There are sixty-four cardinals. One of these will be chosen Pope, succeeding the late Leo XIII.; the successful candidate must receive a two-thirds vote. The Conclave is to be held in the Vatican, where each cardinal will occupy a cell, for which he draws lots. No communication with the outside world may be had. The Conclave will be under the presidency of the Piedmontese Cardinal Oreglia, Dean of the Sacred College (or Consistory of all the Cardinals), who will count the ballots cast and announce the result. His was the chief figure at Leo XIII.'s funeral; during the days elapsing between the Pope's death and the Conclave, it is this Camerlengo or Chamberlain who is the temporary head of the Church. As such his authority is undeniably great, and some observers now think that his use of it during these days has predisposed the cardinals towards him as a candidate, particularly as his great age (he is the sole survivor

of the last Conclave) is in his favor with ambitious younger men who wish to see the way cleared for their own pretensions by a presumably short reign. This reasoning had much to do with electing the venerable Pecci, twenty-five years ago, yet he outlived all but one of his fellow cardinals! There has been, however, no more irreconcilable opponent of Leo XIII.'s liberal policy than Cardinal Oreglia; his election might thus signalize a reactionary Vatican attitude. Of all candidates the figure of the Sicilian Cardinal Rampolla, long Secretary of State to Leo XIII., again, looms largest in the public eye. Though his strength lies first of all in his forceful personality, its also lies in the obligation to him which many cardinals must feel, as, without his approval, they might never have reached their present station. The campaign for him is now being conducted by the French, Spanish, and Portuguese representatives and is opposed by those from Germany, Austria, and Italy. The candidate of the monastic orders is the Genoese Cardinal Gotti, a magnificent specimen of the "self-made man," for he has risen from peasant ranks. Nevertheless, long the head of the Carmelites, he must necessarily be first, last, and always a monk. Hence his candidacy inspires a certain distrust, for the election to the Papacy of a monk might unnecessarily complicate the relations of the Papacy with France, Spain, and the United States, in view of the present difficulties with the monastic orders in the first two countries and in the Philippines. During the past week evidences have accumulated to show that the choice of the Triple Alliance is Cardinal Serafino Vanutelli. His creditable record, both as man and as diplomat, indicates to the three Powers how much they might gain by the ascendancy of one who understands them so well. Finally, three candidates stand out more than ever as eminently and nationally Italian in their divorce from "the prisoner of the Vatican" attitude—Cardinals Sarto, Capocelatro, and Agliardi, men of democratic sympathies, liberal tendencies, and marked capacity for administrative work. All Protestants hope that such qualities will distinguish the next Pope—whether he be one of these prominent papabili or some obscure compromise candidate.—New York Outlook.

### Postal Department Thieves Indicted.

Washington, July 31.—After weeks of deliberation, the Federal grand jury here to-day returned seven separate indictments against persons implicated in the postal service scandals. The facts connected with the action of the grand jury are the most sensational of the whole scandal inquiry, with the possible exception of the arrest of former Superintendent Machen of the free delivery division some time ago.

The Sabbath is not a day to feast our bodies—but to feed our souls.—Empress Josephine.